

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /095 W  
-----061517Z 092249 /65

R 061340Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4341  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
USMISSION USUN  
USMISSION SINAI  
USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 121  
E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS  
SUBJECT: KNESSET FIXES MAY 17 AS ELECTION DATE

1. THE KNESSET YESTERDAY APPROVED LEGISLATION SETTING TUESDAY, MAY 17, AS THE DATE FOR ELECTING THE NINTH KNESSET. IN DOING SO, IT REJECTED RESERVATIONS RAISED BY THE TORAH FRONT BECAUSE OF THE DATE'S PROXIMITY TO THE HOLIDAY OF SHAVUOT AND THE REPORTED REMINDER BY UN AMBASSADOR CHAIM HERZOG THAT A MAY 17 ELECTION WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE ISRAEL WITHOUT A NEW GOVERNMENT WHEN THE UNDOF AUTHORIZATION COMES UP FOR RENEWAL ON MAY 30. THE HISTADRUT OPPOSED A LATER DATE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH ITS JUNE 21 ELECTION. THE KNESSET ACTION LOCKS IN THE PRESENT RABIN CABINET AS THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT (TEL AVIV 0025).

2. (ARGUEMENTS CONTESTING THE VALIDITY OF THE OUSTER OF THE NRP AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE ILP FROM THE GOVERNMENT ARE CURRENTLY BEING HEARD BY THE COURTS. BOTH CASES HINGE ON INTERPRETATIONS OF DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF  
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ISRAEL'S FUNDAMENTAL LAW AS TO WHETHER THE RESIGNATIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES BECAME EFFECTIVE BEFORE OR AFTER RABIN'S RESIGNATION. IF THE RESIGNATION OF ONE OR THE OTHER OR BOTH COULD ONLY TAKE EFFECT AFTER RABIN'S THEN THEY WOULD STILL BE IN THE COALITION, SINCE THE CABINET BECAME AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING RABIN'S RESIGNATION AND MINISTERS CANNOT RESIGN FROM AN INTERIM

GOVERNMENT.)

3. THE PRESENT KNESSET WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY AND WITH FULL POWERS UNTIL THE ELECTION. THE ONE EXCEPTION TO ITS ROUTINE: IT IS NOT EXPECTED TO RECONVENE FOLLOWING THE PASSOVER RECESS IN APRIL, EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE SPECIAL SESSIONS. THE DEADLINE FOR PARTIES TO SUBMIT THEIR KNESSET LISTS IN ISRAEL'S PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATIONAL SYSTEM IS 35 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. PARTIES RECEIVE FUNDS TO DEFRAY THEIR CAMPAIGN EXPENSES (TWO-THIRDS BEFORE THE ELECTION AND ONE-THIRD AFTER) BASED ON THE NUMBER OF SEATS THEY HELD IN THE OLD KNESSET. THE MINIMUM VOTE A PARTY REQUIRES TO GAIN REPRESENTATION IN THE KNESSET IS ONE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3649075  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KNESSET FIXES MAY 17 AS ELECTION DATE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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